



Materials Approved for Use in Organic Production and Handling

Organic farming is based on using natural methods for building soil fertility and managing insects, weeds, and disease. Most synthetic materials are prohibited. The National Organic Program (NOP) allows the use of all natural substances (materials) unless they are specifically prohibited (e.g. strychnine and nicotine are prohibited). Under the NOP all synthetic substances (materials) are prohibited unless they are approved on the National List.

As part of the 2003 application packets we are including three materials lists, the National List, the WSDA Generic Materials List, and the WSDA Brand Name Materials List.

The National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances

The National List consists of sections 205.601 through 205.606 of the National Organic Program. The National List includes a list of approved synthetic materials and prohibited natural materials.

The WSDA Generic Materials List

The WSDA Generic Materials List provides a comprehensive list of approved materials that are compliant with the National Organic Program.

Brand Name Materials List (BNML)

The WSDA Brand Name Materials List is a list of brand name products that have been evaluated to determine that they comply with organic standards. Products listed on the BNML are identified as either being approved or denied. Products that are "Approved" have been determined to comply with the National Organic Program. Products that are "Denied" have been determined to not comply with the National Organic Program and are prohibited.

Products listed as Pending-NOP indicate pheromones that have been approved by the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB), but are awaiting formal adoption by the NOP. The NOSB recommendations will be formally adopted when they are published in the Federal Register. The pheromones that are pending NOP approval may be used for organic crop production in 2003. The WSDA Brand Name Materials List is available on the WSDA web site at:

<http://agr.wa.gov/default.htm>.

How to Determine the Status of a Material

To determine if a product is approved, review the National List to determine if the material is a prohibited natural or approved synthetic. If the material is natural it is approved for use unless it is prohibited on the National List. If the material is synthetic it is prohibited unless it is approved on the National List. Keep in mind the restrictions on materials listed on both the National List and the WSDA Generic List.

Next, review the Brand Name Materials List (BNML) and the WSDA Generic Materials List. If the product is approved on the BNML check the WSDA Generic Materials List to determine whether there are any restrictions on its use (e.g. chelated micronutrients are allowed, but only

if the soil and/or plant tissue tests show the soil is deficient for that nutrient). If the product does not appear on the BNML, review the WSDA Generic Materials List to determine if the material or the ingredients in the material are approved.

Can I Use Up Existing Stocks of Materials from the 2002 Brand Name Materials List?

There are materials that were on the 2002 BNML that do not meet the NOP standards. These materials are prohibited and must not be used. There are also some materials that were on the 2002 BNML that comply with the NOP but did not renew their registration. These NOP compliant materials may be used if you can demonstrate that they comply with the National Organic Program. If a material is not on the BNML you will need to document that the material is NOP compliant.

NOTE: Generally, insecticides have more unidentified inert ingredients than fertilizers or soil amendments. This makes them more difficult to approve or deny for use based on their labeling alone. If you would like to use a material that is not on the BNML, contact the company that manufactures the product and encourage them to register the product with the WSDA Organic Food Program so that a complete evaluation of their compliance with the NOP can be conducted.

If you have any questions regarding the BNML, please contact Mark Amrhein, phone (360) 902-1882, fax (360) 902-2087, or email: mamrhein@agr.wa.gov.